



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

April 15, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Mayor William Euille, Councilman Tim Lovain, Scott Anderson, Christine Michaelis, Annika Moman, Jake Jakubek, Jerry King, Stephen Kleist, James Lewis, Nathan Macek and Maria Wasowski

Staff Present: Karen Callahan – T&ES, Yon Lambert – T&ES, Sandra Marks – T&ES, Jim Maslanka – T&ES, Ramond Robinson – T&ES, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Susan Eddy – P&Z, Carrie Beach – P&Z

Chair Nathan Macek called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. March 18, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Chair Macek called the meeting to order and asked if there were any updates or changes to the March 18, 2015 minutes. He indicated that the minutes should summarize the testimony of public speakers during the public hearing items, for completeness in item number 5, the minutes should restate the Alexandria projects funded by the NVTA program, and we should not yet describe Annika Moman as a new Transportation Commission member but as Environmental Policy Commission's (EPC) nominee to the Transportation Commission. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Commissioner King, voted on and unanimously approved by the Commission.

2. Updates To Receive (Consent Items)

The Commission received updates on the funding of various ongoing projects, the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, the Route 1 Transitway, the Transit Store, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update, and the FY2016-2025 CIP. Commissioner King stated that in the Commission's March 23, 2015 letter to Council regarding the transportation budget, it was specified to dedicate any surplus funds to transportation priorities. Subsequently WMATA's capital and operating contributions from the City were lower than initially realized. T&ES Director Yon Lambert stated as the WMATA surplus funds are a mixture of capital and operating funds, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) will provide guidance to the Commission as to what the options are. Commissioner Anderson made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Wasowski to inform Council that if the City pays less for its share of WMATA funding and if there are

reductions in the costs of the King-Quaker-Braddock intersection project, to the extent that those funds may not be applied for those uses, the Commission recommends that those funds be returned to the TIP. The Commission's top priority would be expanding Capital Bikeshare and to fund the operating cost of the 16 station expansion. The next highest priority would be purchasing additional DASH buses with available TIP funds for DASH expansion of service. Meeting the amount of FY 2016 funding approved in the FY 2015 budget would allow the City to leverage grant reimbursement funds from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) to purchase these buses. To the extent that any funds are remaining, the Commission recommends accelerating design and construction of the Cameron Run Trail project. The motion was voted on and unanimously approved by the Commission.

3. Commission Updates

Councilman Lovain stated that the Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) public involvement program, Community Leadership Institute, is a three-part workshop in which participants learn how transportation decisions are made in the region and how community leaders can make a difference. He indicated if anyone knew any interested citizens he can supply application information. He also reported that TPB received a briefing on the activities following the January 12, 2015 Metrorail L'Enfant Plaza smoke incident.

Commissioner Wasowski reported that the Oakville Triangle/Route 1 Corridor Study Advisory Group's next two meetings on April 29 and May 28 will focus on the results of the transportation study.

Chair Macek reported that the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Parking Standards for New Development Projects as recommended by the Transportation Commission.

Commissioner Anderson reported that the Ad Hoc Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee's next meeting is April 16, 2015 at the Ramsey Recreation Center.

Commissioner Michaelis also added that the Ad Hoc Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Committee agenda will include an update on the project milestones, the project prioritization criteria and the draft West end bicycle network.

Commissioner Jakubek reported that the fifth meeting of the West End Transitway Policy Advisory Group (PAG) will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2015 from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

Commissioner Kleist shared that at the DASH Board of Director's meeting, the general manager reported local and national media attention was received on the Plan Ahead Pay it Forward Initiative which was very well received by the ridership. As a result of the initiative, on time performances improved and the general manager expects to see an increase in both ridership and revenues after April 1.

Commissioner King reported that the Potomac Yard Metro Implementation Work Group public outreach has been outstanding and well received with three subject specific Community Open Houses held in City Hall, Charles Houston Recreation Center and the Cora Kelly Recreation Center. T&ES staff Sandra Marks added that the staff recommendation for the locally preferred alternative will be discussed at upcoming City boards, commission, and committee meetings.

The May Transportation Commission meeting has been rescheduled to May 11, at which time staff will present the locally preferred alternative. The Commissioners will be asked to review staff's alternative as it relates to and is consistent with the Transportation Master Plan.

Commissioner Moman invited all to attend the Earth Day celebration at Ben Brenman Park on Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 10am – 2 pm. The theme this year is “It’s Your Turn to Lead”.

4. Commission Discussion with Transportation Director

T&ES Director Yon Lambert gave an overview on the focus of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services and the Department’s five year vision. He stated the Department major components are transportation, resource recovery, transportation operations, infrastructure and right of way. He specified the Department’s five year vision is to make the Department one of the most progressive transportation and public works agency in Northern Virginia by focusing on maintaining existing infrastructure, key capital improvement projects and environmental sustainability. He spoke about completing high priority projects such as the Potomac Yard Metrorail station, the West End Transitway and resurfacing streets, trails, repairing sidewalks, increasing transit usage, acquiring new bus shelters and real time operating systems for the buses, and ensuring completion of Complete Streets Design Guidelines.

5. WMATA Operations Planning Process

T&ES staff Ramond Robinson and WMATA employee Al Himes gave an overview and answered questions of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) operations planning processes. Mr. Robinson described the operations planning process which includes the following:

- Monthly ridership counts and comparisons to prior year
- Annual review of bus service efficiency
- State of Good Operations (SOGO) program
- Title VI analysis
- Ad Hoc Service analysis

Occasionally, WMATA’s service planning staff is requested to provide proposals which will help lower WMATA’s costs to permit it to be more affordable for all subsidizing jurisdictions as part of the budget process. City staff will work with WMATA staff to determine whether the proposals will help or hinder the City and if a proposal can be worked out with neighboring regional partners before the public hearing. City staff will work with DASH, the Transportation Commission and with the Transit Board to determine if there are services provided by WMATA which can be more appropriately provided by DASH and the Transportation Commission will be requested to provide their input.

6. Transportation Long Range Plan

T&ES staff Sandra Marks and Steve Sindiong updated the Commissioners on the 2015 update of the Transportation Long Range Plan (LRP) which was first adopted by the Commission in April 2010. It is an unconstrained list of all transportation related capital projects and studies identifying the City’s long-range transportation needs that have no identified funding source. Once projects on the LRP receive partial or full funding, they are moved to the City’s constrained Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Transportation Commission updates the LRP on an annual basis, incorporating projects from City plans adopted since the last update.

Last year, the “programs” list was removed from the LRP because the programs are generally covered within the City’s Complete Streets program. The Commission’s LRP Subcommittee will review the current project prioritization criteria and propose any revisions at a Work Session held on May 11 at 6pm, prior to the regular meeting. Staff will present a draft list of project and study changes proposed for the 2015 LRP at the May regular meeting.

7. Eisenhower West Transportation Study

T&ES staff Steve Sindiong introduced Planning and Zoning Deputy Director Susan Eddy and stated the City is conducting the Eisenhower West Small Area Plan (SAP) and the related Eisenhower West Transportation Study. Mr. Sindiong stated Ms. Eddy is managing the overall study and he is managing the transportation element of the study. Ms. Eddy provided an overview of the Small Area Plan effort. Mr. Sindiong provided an overview on the purpose of the transportation. The transportation study will include an analysis of existing conditions, 2040 baseline conditions and 2040 “Build” conditions. Mr. Sindiong provided an overview of the existing conditions within the study area. The 2040 baseline will identify the traffic impacts associated with planned and approved transportation improvements and land uses assumed to be completed by the year 2040. The 2040 build conditions will be analyzed to determine if additional transportation improvements are needed to support the proposed land use, and or if a lower intensity land use scenario is needed for additional analysis. The multimodal bridge analysis will ultimately identify a preferred alignment and cross-section for the multimodal bridge. The bridge is assumed to include one transit lane in each direction, which would be the future routing of the West End Transitway, sidewalks on both sides of the bridge, and an enhanced bicycle facility. In addition, the bridge could potentially include a general purpose travel lane in each direction. The Commission noted that the City needs funded plans for improved transit service, especially along Eisenhower Avenue, in order to support the future proposed development. Commissioner Wasowski noted that the Eisenhower West area may have the potential for a special tax district to help fund improvements.

8. Other Business

Reminder that the LRP Subcommittee meeting will be held at 6:00 pm in Council Workroom on May 11. The regular Transportation Commission May meeting will be held on May 11 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers.

Commissioner King made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Jakubek. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.